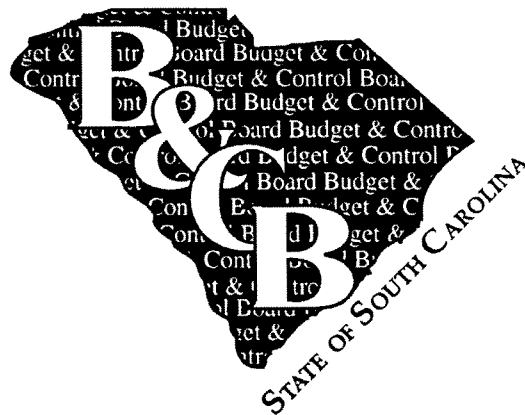


May 5, 2003

State Government News Summary



**Prepared by the Budget and Control Board
Office of the Executive Director**



Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

Program wraps up debate weekend

Event seen as healthy for Democratic party, South Carolina

By VALERIE BAUERLEIN
Staff Writer

On a set built by USC theater students, with one of the state's U.S. senators onstage, South Carolina's three-day stretch in the national spotlight concluded Sunday with the taping of ABC's "This Week" program.

Host George Stephanopoulos featured highlights of Saturday night's debate among the nine Democratic presidential candidates in Columbia.

He asked his guests, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe to critique the Democratic field:

"I think they're all going to lose badly to President Bush," Graham said.

"Just like we beat his father, we're going to beat his son," McAuliffe countered.

But even though the guests interrupted each other, they apologized for it and for the most part, minded their manners -- perhaps a hint of Southern influence in the national talk-show fray.

They also conceded that the debate, while early, was healthy for the state and for the party.

South Carolina is first out of the gate in the Southern presidential primary season, which is why so many Democratic contenders courted voters this weekend and promised to return. The S.C. primary is set for Feb. 3.

Graham said he liked to see people advocating different views.

He joked before the taping that he hoped the Democratic candidates would criticize him, as it only helps in a state that consistently elects Republicans statewide. "I'll keep saying, 'Could you repeat that line?' It's like getting beat up on by Hollywood."

The show was taped at 9 a.m. Sunday at USC's Drayton Hall, the site of Saturday's debate.

It was the last major event in a frenetic weekend that began with Friday night's Jefferson-Jackson dinner, a \$300,000 fund-raiser for the state Democratic party, and U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn's "famous" catfish fry that stretched past midnight.

The weekend continued Saturday with the state's Democratic party convention and the debate.

USC students helped prepare for the debate and the talk show. They built the elaborate screens for the set, per ABC's specifications. They served as runners and volunteers helping the 250 reporters and photographers covering the debate.

On air, Graham and McAuliffe spent much of their time tussling over the economy.

McAuliffe said President Bush cannot hide his culpability for the economy in diversionary photo-ops, like last week's speech on an aircraft carrier.

"A lot of people watched that on television, not on the evening news but in the afternoon," McAuliffe said, "because they didn't have a job."

Graham argued that now was the time to give money back to people, to bolster the economy.

Off camera, they laughed and joked with one another.

After the show, Graham said he'd wished he'd made one point: "This will be a close election.

"In the states (President Bush) won, he's strong," Graham said. "In the states he lost, he's improved. But the economy can define this election."

USC president Andrew Sorensen attended Sunday morning's "This Week" taping with his wife, Donna.

Sorensen told ABC panelist George Will that drama and theater students had helped the production crew. Nine students even spent hours onstage Saturday acting as body doubles for the candidates, holding their places while producers checked lighting and camera angles.

State party chairman Joe Erwin also watched the show's taping, just 16 hours after his election.

Erwin sees the campaigning and coverage as magnets for young people. Ideally, the excitement will lead people to volunteer for candidates, speak out on issues such as education and health care, and ultimately run for office themselves, he said.

"I feel like the winner of the debate," Erwin said.

Overall, coming to Columbia has done Washington some good, said Michel Martin, a reporter and anchor for ABC News.

"People are so excited about the process," she said. "Sometimes when you cover politics, it feels like you belong to some exclusive club, and it's not supposed to be that way."

Martin, who has written for The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, has covered the New Hampshire primary and the Iowa caucus. Voters there are informed about the issues, yes, but a little jaded.

"They've seen it all," she said. "They'll say, 'You know, (CBS' '60 Minutes') Lesley Stahl came to my house,' or, 'Bill Clinton had us over for breakfast.'"

"This is refreshing," Martin said. "Just to bring us all back to reality."



Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

Nine Democratic hopefuls, but no front-runner

NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Democrats emerged from their first presidential debate united on little except their desire to drive George W. Bush from the White House next year.

The nine declared aspirants showed deep divisions over foreign policy, health care and tax cuts in a 90-minute debate Saturday night at the University of South Carolina intended to sell themselves as having the best change to oust the Republican incumbent.

The early leaders in money, organization and experience are members of Congress - Sens. John Edwards of North Carolina, John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joe Lieberman of Connecticut; and Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri.

Lieberman, Al Gore's running mate on the 2000 Democratic ticket, has the highest name recognition. He also is perhaps the most centrist candidate - some believe too centrist to win his party's nomination. He made his stance evident in the debate by strongly approving the U.S.-led war in Iraq and criticizing "big-spending Democratic ideas of the past" such as expensive health care programs.

Edwards is among the newer faces, a wealthy former personal-injury lawyer serving his first Senate term. Although his good looks and charm could appeal to voters, he faces criticism that he lacks the experience a president needs.

Referring to Bush, Edwards said Saturday night: "Just because you speak the language of regular Americans does not mean your agenda is not the agenda of corporate America. Just because you walk around on a ranch in Texas with a big belt buckle doesn't mean you understand and stand up for rural America."

Some Democrats fear that Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, will come across as too liberal for general election voters, but many others think that with his strong resume and campaign organization, he is best positioned to win the nomination.

"I believe I bring strength to this ticket, strength about how we maintain a military that is strong but make ourselves stronger in the world," Kerry said in the debate.

Gephardt, the former House Democratic leader, is the only candidate making a repeat run for the White House. He entered the race in 1988 but ran out of money to sustain his campaign. This time, the hallmark of his campaign is to repeal many of Bush's 2001 tax cuts to finance a program costing \$200 billion-plus per year to help businesses pay for health insurance for their workers.

The proposal drew some of the sharpest criticism during the debate, with some of Gephardt's rivals suggesting it was too expensive and others rejecting the idea of any sort of tax increase.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's rousing campaign speeches against the Iraq war and moderate

positions taken by the Democratic Party have attracted liberal voters, who dominate primary contests with their turnout.

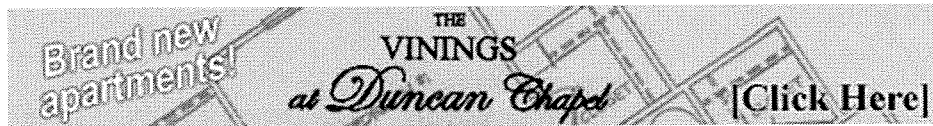
Dean, a former physician, also says he wants to pass a plan to insure more Americans. But his opposition to the war has raised concerns that the Bush campaign would make hay assailing him on national security.

Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, who will officially launch his campaign Tuesday, promotes his record as his state's governor and former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, as well as his roots.

"I can beat George Bush in Florida, and I won't need the U.S. Supreme Court to cast the last ballot," he often says in campaign appearances.

The three other candidates - Al Sharpton, former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich - are seen as long shots for the nomination. But they are making an impact on the campaign by their all-out opposition to Bush's use of the military and their advocacy of social programs to help the poor.

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Graham sees primary boost for Democrats

Posted Monday, May 5, 2003 - 2:58 am

By James T. Hammond
CAPITAL BUREAU
jhammond@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — The 2004 presidential contest will be close, and the economy could define the election if the business climate doesn't improve, Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said Sunday.

And holding the first-in-the-South Feb. 3 Democratic presidential preference primary in South Carolina is likely to breathe new vigor into the state Democratic Party, Graham said.

"It puts the Democratic Party back in the forefront and gives people more than one option. Young people will become interested in having the primary here. It was a very smart move," Graham said.

Graham's perhaps surprising assessment, from a Bush ally fresh from a ballot-box victory, pleased South Carolina's new Democratic Party chairman, Joe Erwin.

"He's right, and I am glad to hear him acknowledge it is so," Erwin said.

The Greenville marketing and public relations executive said his plan to gather many young voters into the Democratic Party includes putting the Young Democrats organization in charge of operating the Feb. 3 primary. The election is expected to cost as much as \$200,000 and involve 4,000 to 6,000 volunteers.

"This is big. These young people know there were 250 journalists in Columbia this weekend to cover this event, and they are excited. But if you don't give the young people something to do, they get bored," he said.

"But if we get these young people involved, we have a chance to keep them in the party," Erwin said.

State Republicans, who gained national influence because of their previous early presidential primary, will not hold a contest in 2004 because the party has endorsed the



George Stephanopoulos interviews Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe, left, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., on ABC television in Columbia on Sunday. (ABC NEWS, BRUCE FLASHNICK via AP)

[e-mail this story](#)

re-election of President Bush.

In 2000, many observers gave South Carolina credit for deciding the Republican nomination in Bush's favor when he knocked Arizona U.S. Sen. John McCain out of the race here.

Graham appeared on "ABC News This Week," a Sunday morning political talk show hosted by George Stephanopoulos, with Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe, from the stage of the University of South Carolina's Drayton Theater.

They sparred over whether there is a Democratic candidate who can challenge President Bush's record as a war leader and commander-in-chief of the most powerful military in the world.

McAuliffe pointed out that many of the smart weapons employed to defeat Iraq's army were developed and built under Democratic presidents.

Graham fired back with a question: "Who would you rather have as commander-in-chief, Bill Clinton or George Bush?"

"President Bush is at 71 percent (approval rating in opinion polls) for a reason. People know him, they like him and they trust him," Graham said.

The assessment of the "ABC News' This Week" panel the morning after the debate was that none of the nine Democratic candidates has emerged as the clear favorite as a strong military leader.

Stephanopoulos said that while Connecticut U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman sought to stake his claim to the mantle of military leader, no single candidate has yet broken out of the pack.

ABC News political director Mark Halperin said the Democratic Party needs a strong message for the general election campaign next year, and "none of them have that yet."

South Carolina's Sen. Graham said the presence of Florida Sen. Bob Graham in the Democratic field could be troublesome for Republicans, because if he wins a spot on the Democratic ticket, it could change the dynamics of the race in Florida.

Whether a state Democratic primary will invigorate the party as Graham and Erwin expect, the debate attracted a lot of interest among USC students Saturday. Many participated in chanting teams for candidates, some worked for the party to organize the event, and many more simply waited to get a glimpse of a candidate or gawk at Confederate flag advocates at the barricades around Drayton Hall.

Other students had been busy printing "No Bush at USC" stickers using their computers and address labels. The stickers are appearing with growing frequency on the clothing of students upset with the president over the war against Iraq.

Bush is scheduled to speak at the USC commencement Friday.



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S.C. politics take center stage during presidential debate

By Andrew J. Skerritt The Herald

(Published May 5, 2003)

COLUMBIA -- The first presidential debate for the 2004 election put S.C. Democrats in the unusual position of standing at the center of the political stage.

But as the nine Democratic presidential hopefuls sparred, parried, sidestepped and jostled with each other in their bids to unseat President Bush, political observers say Saturday night's event was less about presidential politics and more about party politics -- state and national.

"The potential the debate has is what it does to energize people," said prominent Rock Hill Democrat Sig Huitt, who volunteered outside the event. Huitt heard all the candidates at the S.C. Democratic Party convention that afternoon and was thinking about what would happen to the party as the candidates return to South Carolina in the months leading up to the state's Feb. 3 Democratic primary.

"I'm thinking about the candidates traveling to South Carolina between now and January. It keeps people energized," Huitt said.

Few believe Democrats can carry South Carolina in 2004, whoever their nominee is. But by moving the Democratic primary to Feb. 3, 2004, right after New Hampshire primary, S.C. Democrats have given their party, which took a beating in the November election, new life. The presidential debate, attracting media from all over the country, was the first example.

"This is important for the national party, and it's very important for the state party," said Winthrop University assistant political science professor Scott Huffmon, who attended Saturday night's debate.

"It's about parading the hopefuls in front of the activists and the donors. They are the ones who pay attention," Huffmon said. "They are deciding who to back, who's going to be able to beat George Bush."

After the candidates sparred for 90 minutes, most of them, including former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, Vermont former Gov. Howard Dean, activist the Rev. Al Sharpton and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, converged on the media room to talk about how and why they could beat Bush. Many also had surrogates to drive home their message.

U.S. Rep. John Spratt, D-York, a strong Gephardt supporter, touted the former House Minority leader's proposal for universal healthcare and his work balancing the federal budget during the Clinton years.

"Dick Gephardt has been in leadership positions and working on substantive issues," Spratt said. "It came through."

Spratt acknowledges President Bush has an aura of invincibility, but so did his father in 1991 after the Persian Gulf War.

"We don't know what will happen in a year," Spratt said. With the mounting federal budget deficit, a rising job unemployment rate, now at 6 percent, the public will eventually turn away from the euphoria of overthrowing Saddam Hussein and refocus on domestic issues, Spratt said.

"When the problem doesn't go away and they don't see a satisfactory resolution, they will get concerned,"

Spratt said.

Presidential debates are about expectations for the candidates and the viewers. Before the debate, Congressman Jim Clyburn worried the debate would be dominated by questions about the Confederate flag.

"This weekend affords us an opportunity as Democrats to play on the national stage," Clyburn said. "When it comes to presidential politics, not since 1960 have we been in such a position. I should hope that we as Democrats would do everything we can to keep the focus of this election on presidential issues. That's important."

There was only a passing reference to the Confederate flag. Florida Sen. Bob Graham seemed to put that question to rest when he said, "We need to put the Civil War behind us," a comment which met with applause from the audience.

Still there were moments of anxiety. During the debate, an unidentified woman in the audience at the Russell House gasped "no, not the flag," as moderator George Stephanopoulos was about to ask a state question. Stephanopoulos instead asked Edwards where he stood on the issue of gays having consensual sex in their bedrooms. Edwards responded this was a privacy issue.

That response, Huffmon said, helped the first term North Carolina senator.

"Edwards raised his profile," Huffmon said. "A lot of people were looking at the debate to see how Edwards defined himself. He showed himself to be a candidate who has policy ideas. Whether they are good or bad, it's up to the voters."

And many of those primary voters in South Carolina are black. One key Edwards supporter who was in Columbia for the debate can help attract black votes. Following the debate, Harvey Gantt, former Charlotte mayor and the first black student to be admitted to Clemson University, was on hand to tout Edwards' passion for working class people.

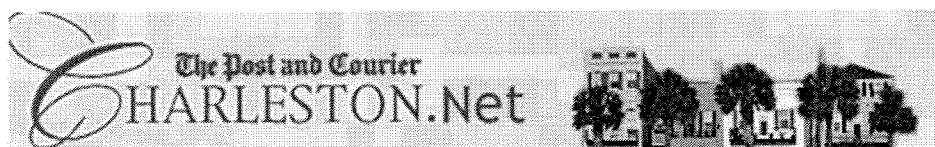
"He's electable," Gantt said. "He's a guy who can carry the South."

That was a common theme around the debate.

"Bob Graham spoke aloud what most people are whispering -- a moderate southern Democrat has a good chance of picking up a few southern states," Huffmon said. "By having an early southern primary, a moderate Democrat can emerge. That's what Democrats have to do to win the White House."

Andrew J. Skerritt's column appears Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact him at 329-4032 or askerritt@heraldonline.com.

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Lieberman speaks against flag

BY RON MENCHACA
Of The Post and Courier Staff

In comments Sunday to one of the state's largest black church congregations, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut called on state leaders to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds.

"The flag is a memory of a time of division," Lieberman said in remarks at the 11 a.m. service of Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston. "It is offensive."

Lieberman, one of a spate of Democratic candidates who took part in Saturday's debate in Columbia, has come out against the flag's location before. He chose to reiterate his stance during a weekend in which some expected that the flag debate might be drowned out by other national issues.

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., who last week called on the nine candidates to avoid bringing up the flag or answering questions about it, said Sunday that his wishes extended only to the debate.

"Aside from the debate, candidates can do what they want to do," Clyburn said. "I just didn't want the debate to get bogged down in South Carolina issues."

Lieberman told the congregation that he had spent Saturday night at the home of Richard Gergel, an attorney in a lawsuit that argued the Confederate battle flag was placed on the Statehouse dome illegally.

A Confederate flag was moved from atop the Statehouse to a Confederate monument in front of the building two years ago. Unsatisfied with a legislative compromise, the state branch of the NAACP has continued its boycott of the state, asking businesses, tourists and performing artists not to spend money in South Carolina until the flag is removed from the grounds.

Lieberman, who became the first Jew on a major-party presidential ticket during his 2000 campaign with Al Gore, used most of his brief remarks Sunday to address the flag, the civil rights movement and the role of religion in the country's founding. "Some in the White House now think that faith only leads in a conservative direction," he said. "I don't think so."

As the largest AME congregation in the state, the 3,000-member church has long been a stump for political candidates seeking the endorsement of its

pastor, the Rev. Joseph Darby, who also is the first vice president of the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In introducing Lieberman, Darby recalled the controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election. "I should be introducing Vice President Lieberman," Darby said.

Noting South Carolina's Feb. 3 primary, Lieberman said black voters will have a larger influence than in any previous presidential election.

Lieberman is not the first Democratic presidential candidate to visit or contact Darby during this campaign. Darby has said former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina have visited to worship. The Rev. Al Sharpton and Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts have dropped by to chat, and Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri sent Darby a postcard.

On Sunday, Darby thanked all of the Democratic candidates for coming out against the flying of the flag at the Statehouse. He singled out Lieberman's early stance on the issue, saying he admires candidates who take such controversial positions "before they put their finger in the political wind to see if it's the right thing to say."

Clyburn, who also wants the flag moved, said he didn't mind that Lieberman broached the flag issue Sunday. He said his main concern was that it not become a focal point in a presidential debate with the whole nation watching.

He has no doubts, though, that it will resurface throughout the campaign. "It is going to come up," he said.

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"This is refreshing," Martin said. "Just to bring us all back to reality."

MyrtleBeachOnline.com

Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

STROM THURMOND FAMILY DAY

GOP counts event a success

By Tonya Root
The Sun News

CONWAY - Numerous politicians flocked to Strom Thurmond Family Day on Sunday, where they greeted voters, posed for photographs and kissed babies.

And even though the cool, overcast weather kept the day's namesake at home, the 100-year-old Peanut Warehouse porch was dedicated as Strom's Porch.

Former Sen. Strom Thurmond was set to make his first public appearance since retiring as the longest-serving U.S. senator at the event. Instead, his wife, Nancy Thurmond, made the journey on his behalf.

"We're all touched, and it's honoring," Nancy Thurmond said. "We need good people to run for office, and this [turnout] is encouraging to families."

Strom Thurmond did call Larry Biddle, president of the Burroughs Co., which owns the Peanut Warehouse, at 8:15 a.m. Sunday and sent a letter that was read during the dedication.

"My family feels it is inadvisable for me to travel this day," Biddle said as he read Thurmond's letter. "I am pleased to know a great American tradition will continue here today."

The event, which continues at 4 p.m. today, "is our answer to the Galivants Ferry Stump," said Horry County GOP Chairman Duane Oliver, who planned the events with Biddle. The men hope the two-day gathering will become a tradition, with the first Sunday in May set aside for family activities and Monday for political speeches.

"This will be where the Republicans can meet their candidates just like Galivants Ferry is where Democrats can meet their candidates," Biddle said. "The power of Strom Thurmond weathers anything, like this porch has weathered everything."

Those in attendance Sunday were a who's who of current and former politicians, mostly Republicans.

"It's a historic day for Strom Thurmond, for Republicans and the city of Conway," Horry County Auditor Lois Eargle said. "This is a wonderful place to have a rally. We're just so fortunate to have this here in Conway."

Conway Councilwoman Jean Timbes said the day was special because members of both political parties came together to honor Thurmond.

"This porch will have a lot of words of wisdom spoken from it," Timbes said.

The day's events and dedication to Thurmond also spoke "volumes about Horry County and the Republican leadership in it," Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer said. "For 100 years, this porch has protected people in good time and bad, just as Strom Thurmond through his leadership has protected people in good times and bad."

For Conway resident Al Bailey, the event wasn't as much about Thurmond's possible attendance as it was to support the Republican party.

"I'm not a political type," Bailey said. "I'm just an American, and I just happen to believe in [the Republican] way of life."

Contact TONYA ROOT at troot@thesunnews.com or 248-2149.

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Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

Strom's Porch dedicated in Conway

Associated Press

CONWAY, S.C. - The 100-year-old porch at the Peanut Warehouse has weathered everything it seems - so it's appropriate it has been dedicated to former U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, the nation's longest-serving senator.

Thurmond was unable to make it Sunday to the ceremony, which was billed as the Republicans' version of the Galivants Ferry Stump, where Democrats meet candidates.

Thurmond, who lives in a modified hospital room in Edgefield, has not made a public appearance since retiring in January. He did send a letter that was read during the dedication.

"My family feels it is inadvisable for me to travel this day," said Larry Biddle, president of Burroughs Co., as he read Thurmond's letter. "I am pleased to know a great American tradition will continue here today."

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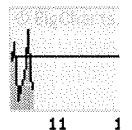
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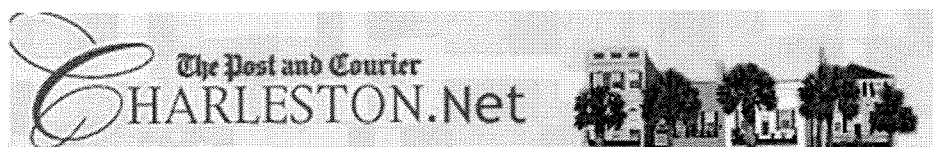
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The Strom Thurmond picture flap

Racial politics took on a surreal aspect Thursday when state Sen. Robert Ford complained on the Senate floor about the state's Legislative Manual, which honors former Sen. Strom Thurmond this year. Sen. Ford objected to the photos of Mr. Thurmond that were coexistent with the South's Jim Crow era and in Sen. Ford's view can be perceived as a link with the senator's segregationist past.

The photos in question are two of Mr. Thurmond as a military officer in World War II, when he fought in Europe; a photograph of an infant Strom; and a photograph of Mr. Thurmond as a cadet at Clemson, when it was still a military school. If there were a legitimate criticism to be made, it would be that Mr. Thurmond was not represented as governor or as a judge, both important chapters in his storied public life.

Sen. Ford said, "I love the new Strom. For the past 20 years, I have had no problem with Strom Thurmond." He said that including the early pictures of Strom Thurmond "is just like honoring Lester Maddox before he changed. You know what happened back then."

But one of the salient points in Mr. Thurmond's career is that he was able to change his position on race. So did many other Southern leaders whose careers bridged the segregated South and civil rights. And so did the state and region, by and large. Honoring Sen. Thurmond implicitly recognizes that change, as well as his long and faithful service to the state.

Sen. Ford later explained to reporter Brian Hicks that his remarks were spurred by members of the black caucus who were offended by the pictures of Mr. Thurmond on the manual. One black senator, Darrell Jackson, told Mr. Hicks that he wouldn't send the manual out to his constituents. He then offered these cryptic remarks: "This is not a direct insult. I don't believe that's what we're saying. Some of us are sensitive to offending others."

It's hard to believe that using the cover of the Legislative Manual to recognize the public career and contributions of the 100-year-old Sen. Thurmond would provide offense to any South Carolinian. Apparently those who keep their political sensitivities honed to a racial razor's edge should be excepted.

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Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

The state of South Carolina spends about \$1 billion a year

By CLARE RAMSEY
Staff Writer

The state of South Carolina spends about \$1 billion a year, buying everything from live fish and pepper spray to file folders and paint products.

The sales opportunities are too much for Rose Talbert Paint Co. in West Columbia to pass up.

"We're no different than any other business," said the company's vice president and general manager, Bob Walker. "You have a potential customer base out there, and you try to cover as many bases as possible."

Local businesspeople such as Walker say the state government is a great customer to have. Its contracts can provide a steady cash flow and growth opportunities on top of what companies do with other customers.

But working with the government can present some different challenges than dealing with the private sector.

The trick is to learn the ropes and follow the rules, state procurement officials and local business owners say.

"There are vendors who are very successful with the state because they have learned how to do the process," said Voight Shealy, the state's materials management officer.

THE PROCESS

The state issues about 1,900 contracts annually with about 1,575 vendors large and small, and that doesn't include small purchases by individual agencies.

Its system of procuring -- or buying -- goods and services can be a complex process of paperwork, meetings, presentations and reviews. Or it can be as simple as filling out a form and filing it on time.

The system is guided by state law, so it's fairly rigid, state procurement officials say.

Unlike the private sector, "we can't do business with a handshake," said Jimmy Culbreth, the procurement officer who oversees the state's purchases of most goods and services.

The procurement code lays out different rules for different types of spending.

For example, if a state agency spends \$500, all that's required is a verbal quote. If it spends \$500,000, the agency has to be more selective by publicly soliciting bidders to find the best deal.

Businesses have to follow the rules of the bidding process. That means submitting necessary paperwork

filled out correctly and on time.

State procurement officials say they've heard about every excuse in the book for late bids, and they won't accept any of them.

"If you are 30 seconds late, it's sorry Charlie," Shealy said.

The inflexibility of the process might turn some businesses off to working with the state, but the state has to follow its guidelines to the letter, Culbreth said.

"Our rules are laws. We can't bend laws," Culbreth said.

Yet not everything in state government is different from working with the private sector.

Like private companies seeking bids, state agencies often look at quality and service along with price. That's something Rose Talbert officials keep in mind when putting together bids, Walker said.

The paint manufacturer currently is the state paint supplier for the Midlands and coastal region, with a contract valued at about \$250,000 a year. Walker said the company has been doing business with the state for decades.

"When you are in the service business, you give them what they want," whether they be government or private customers, Walker said.

Clay Johnston is the third-generation owner of Wright-Johnston uniform supplier in downtown Columbia.

His company has won a variety of contracts supplying uniforms to state law enforcement. His many deals include one potentially worth \$1.1 million for battle dress uniforms for the Department of Public Safety and another potentially worth \$105,000 selling commando boots to Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

"In this type of business, it's pretty routine," he said of the bidding process.

When a bid request comes up, he looks at his company's costs for the products, including checking with his suppliers to find out what price they can give him. Then he looks at what price he can offer the state and still make a profit.

But, Johnston said, every now and then a bid requires some extra work, such as taking measurements and providing documents.

And while uniform styles don't change nearly as often as civilian fashions, Johnston said it's important as a businessperson to know his state agency customers and try to anticipate their needs.

"We call on our customers like any business would, and try to stay abreast of what's going on," he said.

BENEFITS AND RISKS

Finding the best companies to fulfill government contracts is in the best interest of everyone in the state, Shealy said.

"There is nothing more important than the integrity of the process, because I am spending your money and everyone else's money," Shealy said.

The bigger the pool of bidders, the better the deal the state will get, he said.

All the competition, of course, increases the risks for businesses.

Companies need to be prepared for the chance that they won't always have that income from state contracts, procurement officials said.

State government contracts can be a boon, but the deals come with expiration dates.

Once it expires, a business has no guarantee that a contract will be put up for bid again. And if it is, there's no guarantee the previous winner will triumph again, state officials said.

Walker said Rose Talbert has done business with most state agencies, but has many accounts with private companies and other government entities, too.

"That's basic business sense. You have to be diversified," Walker said.

Of course, when companies win contracts, there are benefits.

Government contracts can be a boon, said Diane Sumpter, president of DESA Inc.

The Columbia consulting firm has won state contracts with different agencies over the years, including First Steps and the Department of Transportation. State contracts make up about 20 percent of her business, she said.

Doing business with the government is advantageous, Sumpter said, because it can provide a steady, reliable income for the duration of the contract.

"The government may be known to pay slow, but they are always going to pay," she said.



Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

To some minority business owners, the state's procurement system seems impossible to crack

By CLARE RAMSEY
Staff Writer

To some minority business owners, the state's procurement system seems impossible to crack.

"The perception is that you can't get in," said Diane Sumpter, the owner of DESA Inc., a local consulting firm under contract with the state to study how South Carolina can improve minority businesspeople's involvement in the system.

Yet many minority- and women-owned businesses are getting in.

The state spent more than \$28 million with such businesses last year, or 2.8 percent of such expenditures.

That exceeded the state's target by 15 percent and showed a 26 percent increase over the year before.

Even so, some say that's not enough, with South Carolina government spending about \$1 billion each year in the private sector on goods and services.

"Minority-owned businesses pay taxes like everyone else," Sumpter said, so they "are asking the state for no more than they are giving the state."

State law does not contain provisions for agencies to give preference to minority-owned firms.

The state does ask such businesses to register with the state so agencies can keep track of how much business they do with minorities.

Each state agency, in turn, has a nonbinding goal for doing business with minority firms, and only certified firms count toward that goal.

DESA Inc.'s study, to be completed this summer, will review state laws and what other states do, examine procedures for purchasing and talk with a variety of interested groups to find out what they want from the state, Sumpter said.

DESA also will examine the state's minority certification process.

"The purpose is to help the state identify how we can enhance the minority participation in state contracting," said Delbert Singleton, director for procurement services and secretary for the State Budget and Control Board.

Singleton said minorities are urged to be certified, but they are treated as any S.C. vendor in the procurement process.

However, firms could stand to gain some visibility when they get certified.

Certification means they'll be placed in the state's directory of minority-owned firms, which is available to public and private entities online at www.govoepp.state.sc.us/osmba/.

Some minority firms don't get certified because they don't see a benefit, Sumpter said. That means the actual amount of business minority firms do with the state could be underreported.

As a result, the certification process needs to offer minority businesses more incentives to participate, she said.

"Minority businesses need to know what's in it for them to be certified minority businesses," Sumpter said.

Local business owner Gary Washington agrees. His business, Carolina Procurement Institute, helps small business owners win contracts with private firms and public agencies.

The state's system of setting nonbinding goals doesn't go far enough to help minority firms win business, he said.

"Their intentions are good," he said. "However, the reality is their goals have no teeth."

Singleton said the entire state has an interest in improving minority participation in the procurement process, because winning state contracts can build up businesses.

"The bottom line is to help the overall economy of the state. It's to make sure we get money to every segment of the community we can in the state," Singleton said.



Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003



Reading grant genuine gesture of federal help

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, members of South Carolina's congressional delegation, the governor and the State Department of Education recently came together in a genuine act of unity to benefit our public schoolchildren.

All of these entities were represented at Richland District 1's Annie Burnside Elementary School to announce a nearly \$90 million federal grant for South Carolina reading programs. This year alone, nearly \$30 million will be put to work in reading instruction, the first of six years of funding.

The money comes from the U.S. Education Department's Reading First program. This initiative supports training to help teachers be better reading instructors. It provides the knowledge and tools needed to assess and improve children's reading skills. And it pays for reforms of reading instruction programs to bring them in line with teaching methods that have been scientifically proven to be successful.

As former public school teacher and State Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum put it at the grant announcement, "Reading really is rocket science." It's a complicated ability and one that is hard to develop if teachers don't understand what prompts a particular child's difficulties.

Reading First Director Chris Doherty of the U.S. Department of Education, also a former classroom teacher, promises this gift is more than a one-time media event. It represents a long-term commitment by his department and the Bush administration to support needed educational programs.

"The plans that these funds will support are excellent," Mr. Doherty said. "The plans pass the veteran teacher and veteran principal test."

South Carolina had to apply for these grant funds through a competitive process. School districts will do the same to try to earn some of our state's allotment. While some of the funds can benefit all students statewide, a large portion is targeted for schools in districts that meet federal poverty guidelines. This will ensure the money goes to the areas in greatest need of an academic boost.

The programs that are funded must pass muster against 25 specific criteria to ensure they are based on sound, proven instructional methods. They must build the skills of identifying sounds and symbols and of helping children understand the relationships between written letters and spoken words. Students must be taught to read accurately and quickly, how to choose and use the proper words and to understand and use what they have read.

The money comes to South Carolina as part of the president's No Child Left Behind initiative. That accountability measure is designed to ensure that all schools are offering top-quality instruction to every child, and proposes sanctions for schools that don't fulfill that mission. Such penalties would be meaningless if the federal government did not offer some hope for helping struggling schools succeed. This grant is a generous and meaningful tool toward that end.

Reading First seeks to help all of America's schoolchildren read on their grade level by the third grade. If this foundation can be laid across our nation, it will go a long way toward ensuring the brightest possible future for the young people learning in our 21st century public schools.

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New teachers worry that bell tolls for jobs

Posted Monday, May 5, 2003 - 2:39 am

By Cindy Landrum
EDUCATION WRITER
clandrum@greenvillenews.com

Carrie Davenport has spent this semester in a second-grade class at Wren Elementary learning how to be a teacher.

 [e-mail this story](#)

"It reassures me every day that this is what I'm meant to do," said Davenport, a 22-year-old Pelzer resident who comes from a family of teachers. "There's no doubt in my mind that I want to be a teacher."

But Davenport is just days away from graduating from Anderson College, and she's afraid her career dreams are about to crash head-first into South Carolina's budget crisis.

School districts across the state have given some 1,500 teachers pink slips, and estimates of potential layoffs run as high as 6,000 teachers statewide. School trustee Chuck Saylor has said the budget crisis could cost Greenville County 350 teaching jobs.

That leaves Davenport and the state's other soon-to-be-certified teachers waiting and wondering whether they'll have teaching jobs in the fall.

"When I started college four years ago, teachers were in demand," Davenport said. "I never thought I'd find myself in this predicament."

Becky Rank, a Furman graduate who is working as a long-term substitute at Mauldin High, said the uncertainty can be unnerving.

"It's a hard thing to be patient," said Rank, a social studies teacher. "I have no idea what I'll be doing next year. I don't know whether I'll have a job or where I'll be or if I'll have to move or whether I should look into going to grad school. It's frustrating."

Upstate school districts have frozen hiring, waiting to see just how many new teachers, if any, they can hire.

The House provided \$1,643 per pupil in its version of the state budget for the year that begins July 1. That's well under the peak per-pupil funding in 2001 of \$2,002.

For the 2003-04 school year, the Education Finance Act guidelines show schools should be funded at \$2,201 per pupil.

The Senate Finance Committee version of the budget brings in additional revenue for

schools by raising the sales tax cap on cars, eliminating a small sales tax break for people 85 and older and eliminating a tax break on manufacturing equipment. Schools would get \$1,904 per student.

The full Senate is now considering the budget.

Anne Byrd, director of the South Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment, said state schools typically hire 6,500 new teachers a year.

She expects that number to be lower this year, although by how much remains to be seen.

School districts are sorting through contracts turned in by teachers planning to return to the classroom next year to see where their vacancies may be. They're also watching the budget process to see if they'll have the money to fill them.

"We just have to wait and see," said Anderson District 1 Superintendent Reggie Christopher.

Janice Poda, senior director of the state Department of Education's Division of Teacher Quality, said she's afraid the state will lose some teachers for good.

Other states could come to the state to "poach" teachers who are losing their jobs, much like Poda did a few years back when she was with the state teacher recruitment center and Massachusetts was laying off a large number of teachers.

"I think other states will do it to us," she said.

Lindsay Taylor, 22, of Greenville, is student-teaching at Wade Hampton High. She'll look for a job in neighboring North Carolina. She also teaches science — a subject that has a critical shortage of teachers.

"I'm hoping my search won't be as difficult," she said.

Christina Hunter, a third-grade teacher at Sara Collins Elementary and Greenville County's Teacher of the Year, said in addition to losing rookie teachers to other professions, the budget crisis could cost the state its veterans as well as class-size increases.

"It's not fair to the profession," she said. "All teachers are being affected."

While teachers are being laid off and new teachers worry about being able to get their first job, there is a teacher shortage in areas like math, science, foreign language and special education.

"If students have targeted their careers carefully, they'll still be in demand," said Les Sternberg, dean of the College of Education at the University of South Carolina.

Sternberg and Nancy Dunlap, associate director of the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at Clemson University, said they haven't seen a decrease in the number of students interested in teaching.

"I can remember years ago we were producing more elementary education teachers than were necessary. It was not unusual to have 12, 15, even 20 applicants for every position," he said. "That didn't decrease the number of students going into elementary ed."

Dunlap said that in fact, Clemson's education program is too large, and "a slight decrease in the number of students wouldn't hurt at all."



Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

The State

Unnaming a road

EARLE MORRIS WAS a popular and trusted state official, serving nearly half a century in elected office, the last 20 as comptroller general. After leaving office, Mr. Morris became chairman of Carolina Investors, a Pickens investment company that attracted thousands of South Carolinians with high returns many apparently thought were as safe as bank deposits.

Unfortunately, Carolina Investors' parent company filed for bankruptcy this spring, and Mr. Morris' company, which had invested heavily in its parent, wasn't far behind, leaving up to 8,000 residents, mostly from the Upstate, holding the bag for perhaps \$275 million.

We have no idea whether Mr. Morris is to blame, but his name leaves a bad taste in the mouths of many in Pickens County. They are reminded of their feelings every time they drive along S.C. 153, which since 1975 has been named the Earle E. Morris Highway.

The House has approved a resolution asking the state Transportation Department to unname the road. The resolution doesn't say why, but the reason is clear.

And it is yet another painful reminder of why our state shouldn't be in the business of naming roads or buildings or other public works after living people. We hope the legislators pushing for the unnaming (who have been active parties in the naming of public works for living politicians) and their colleagues take note.

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A blow to immigrants

Congress should revise 1996 law

Published Monday, May 5th, 2003

The Supreme Court ruling allowing immigrants to be detained pending their deportation hearings is a blow to many legal residents who have been snared by a harsh 1996 law. Congress should revisit the law to lessen its impact on thousands of immigrants who have committed less-egregious offenses than the serious felonies anticipated by Congress.

In a 5-4 decision last week, the court said the government can imprison immigrants who are contesting deportation without first giving them a chance to show they aren't a flight risk or a danger to society. The court upheld a 1996 law that affects tens of thousands of permanent legal residents who have been convicted of drug violations and other lesser crimes deemed "aggravated."

advertisement

The case involved Sam Kim, 24, who moved to California from South Korea with his family when he was 6 years old. Kim got into trouble as a teenager, first for breaking into a tool shed and later for stealing \$100 worth of books from a Caustic store. Although the latter offense was petty theft, the 1996 law's definition of "aggravated felony" is so broad that the offense constituted a reportable crime and triggered deportation proceedings against Kim.

When Congress passed the law, it wanted to deport hardened criminals and wrote language to ensure none would escape while awaiting deportation proceedings. Thus, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote for the majority that "when the government deals with deportable aliens, it does not require it to employ the least burdensome means to accomplish its goal."

Kim was jailed for six months but won release pending his deportation. A federal court had found that Kim wasn't a flight risk and ordered him released. Immigration authorities objected, however, arguing that Kim was a flight risk because 20 percent of immigrants fail to show up for deportation. The Supreme Court majority agreed that Congress intended the law to be broadly interpreted.

In dissent, Justice David Souter argued that the Fifth Amendment requires that a specific determination be made that a person was a flight risk or a danger to society. Quoting a 1987 ruling, Justice Souter wrote: "In our society, liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception."

While released from jail, Kim got a job and enrolled in college. His lawyer is challenging the deportation on grounds that it doesn't fit the criteria outlined by Congress. Kim, a legal permanent resident, knows little about Korea and doesn't speak the language. He is like thousands of other lawful residents who deserve at least a chance to be freed so they can defend themselves.

The Supreme Court should have provided a better protections for legal residents. However, it's up to Congress to fix the 1996 law.

The Miami Herald

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Posted on Mon, May. 05, 2003

Shaw leader receives jubilant homecoming

Lt. Gen. Moseley helped control air war in Iraq, credited with enabling U.S. to dominate skies

By PAUL WACHTER
Staff Writer

The man responsible for U.S. dominance of Iraqi skies returned home Sunday to Shaw Air Force Base, saying, "It's great to breathe American air."

Lt. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, commander of the Shaw-based 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces, landed along with 60 other senior planners who helped run the air war out of Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

The airmen were met by jubilant, teary-eyed family members, an Air Force rock band and senior Shaw personnel. But they still had time to reflect on their three-week rout of Saddam Hussein.

Moseley was formally introduced by Gen. Hal Hornburg, the Langley, Va.-based Air Combat Command commander in charge of preparing the nation's airmen for war.

"I was here 11 years ago, when Gen. (Chuck) Horner returned," from the 1991 Gulf War, Hornburg said. "But this day is more historic, and I'm here to introduce the man behind this success."

"I'm here to represent the coalition that crushed Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime," said Moseley, who added that many of the returning airmen had also been involved in the war in Afghanistan. "The people of the world are safer today, and the children in Afghanistan and Iraq are better off."

Moseley and other planners credited technological advances -- particularly in precision weaponry -- with making their job easier in Iraq. "We also had 12 years of training in the no-fly zones in Iraq" that were set up after the 1991 war, Moseley said.

Former Shaw commander Col. Bill Rew, who worked under Moseley in Saudi Arabia, said much data would need to be analyzed before the lessons of the war would be clear.

"But I think we can already say that one of the biggest improvements we've made is in joint war fighting -- making sure all the branches of the military work together."

Rew said the military still had to cut down the time it took to act on fresh intelligence. He offered the two strikes on Saddam as an example.

"When we tried to get Saddam the first time, at the outset of the war, we went from a cold start," he said. "We didn't have a plane in the air, when the intelligence came in."

"But in the second strike, into downtown Baghdad, we were able to divert a plane that was already in the air," he said. "It was only a matter of minutes between when the intelligence came in and when we struck."

"Still, it's one area we can still improve on," he said.

Sunday's return was the third major homecoming of Shaw airmen since the war in Iraq ended. Hundreds more troops are set to return to South Carolina bases in the coming weeks.

With the end of the war, the Pentagon announced it would move nearly all of its troops out of Saudi Arabia.

The presence of U.S. troops in the kingdom was one of Osama bin Laden's professed grievances against Washington. But Moseley said the move shouldn't be seen as a capitulation to Islamic fundamentalists.

"We're done with the no-fly zones, so our mission in Saudi Arabia is over," he said. "The Saudis have been good friends, are good friends, and will always be good friends to the United States.

"Bin Laden is an aberration in an exciting region of great people," he said.

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State line settled in mountains

Posted Monday, May 5, 2003 - 2:39 am

By Jason Zacher
STAFF WRITER
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The border between the Carolinas has been an uncertain, meandering line, sparking disputes, since the colony was split in 1730.

Through murky Lowcountry swamps and dense Upstate forests, it took 85 years, and one of the early nation's premier surveyors, to mark the border.

Now, 188 years after officials met in Greenville to agree on a wild, frontier state line, the work is complete to a degree of accuracy early surveyor Andrew Ellicott never could have dreamed. And, amazingly, the border didn't move much, said Gary Thompson, director of the North Carolina Geodetic Survey.

"They did an amazing job," Thompson said about the early surveyors. "I can't imagine how they did it."

Last week, officials with both Carolinas met again in northern Greenville County to tentatively agree on the border north of Greenville, Pickens and Oconee counties.

"This isn't a dispute. We're doing this amicably," said Alan-John Zupan, a researcher with the South Carolina Geodetic Survey. "There were questions on where the line is."

The 1815 survey was ordered to settle disputes and distinguish settler land from Cherokee land. Today, economics brought the surveyors back. Pricey homes are scattered across the tops of the mountains, soaking up million-dollar views. The cities of Charlotte and Rock Hill are growing rapidly toward each other. Homes and private land frequently straddle both states.



In the northern Pickens County mountains, survey stakes like this one mark the border between North and South Carolina. (JASON ZACHER / Staff)

[e-mail this story](#)

More details

THE SURVEY

1737: Horry and Dillon counties completed.

1764: Marlboro, Chesterfield and Lancaster counties completed.

1772: Lancaster to Cherokee Indian boundary (roughly Greenville-Spartanburg line) completed.

1815: Greenville to Georgia completed.

2000-2003: Greenville, Pickens and Oconee counties completed.

Fall 2003: Work begins from Greenville-Spartanburg line to Lake Wiley.

Development means tax dollars for the states and basic services like fire protection for residents.

The official border will be set by the two states' border commission, which is expected to meet within the next few months. The state Legislature will then have to approve the border.

"This line is one of the longest disputed of all the states," said Christa Smith, an assistant professor of geography at Clemson University. "It's notorious for that."

Ellicott rocks

At the top of Sassafras Mountain, a popular place on warm, weekend days, you don't have to venture far to find the remnants of the surveying crews. Not too far off several trails, there are stakes marked "STATE Line (NC)" on one side and "STATE Line (SC)" on the other.

The border is fairly easy to follow in this area. From Tryon to Sassafras Mountain, it runs along the Eastern Continental Divide — the watershed divide where water on one side flows to the Atlantic Ocean and on the other flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

Near Sassafras, the border follows a straight line to Ellicott Rock, marked in the early 1800s — erroneously, some say — by Andrew Ellicott. Surveyors said marking that section of the border was physically demanding, involving hikes to remote areas.

Thompson and Zupan said there is no proof Andrew Ellicott marked anything more than the one rock, but there are two other "Ellicott" rocks on federal maps between that border and Sassafras Mountain. Pickens County naturalist Dennis Chastain and other locals said the three Ellicott Rocks are circumstantial evidence Ellicott marked more than that one point.

According to historical records, Ellicott was hired by the state of Georgia to mark the border and settle a dispute that led to the "Walton War," when North Carolina sent in its militia to claim Walton County from Georgia.

Ellicott is famous for more than settling a border dispute and marking one rock. He laid out the streets for Washington, D.C., at the request of George Washington. He also was asked by Thomas Jefferson to teach Meriwether Lewis celestial navigation, according to the Lewis and Clark Rediscovery Project in Philadelphia. Lewis was the leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition sent by President Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Purchase, which was signed 200 years ago last week.

Old vs. new

While the 1815 survey was made using the stars, the modern surveyors used Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) units.

To make that easier, the surveyors could only work during the winter, because dense forest canopy can obstruct the satellite signals. But working during the winters meant bad weather delayed the work numerous times.

Jim Davis of Concord Engineering and Surveying Inc. of Concord, N.C., was in charge of surveying from the Pinnacle Point Young Life Camp, near Rocky Bottom, to Grassy Top Mountain, just west of U.S. 25. The 21st-century equipment he used marked the border to within 1/100th of a foot — much better than the "pole" measurement used by the 1815 survey, which had an accuracy of 16½ feet.

"It was remarkable," he said. "We frequently were up there trying to find their ridge line and we thought we were on that ridge, but we'd be 500 feet off. Then we'd retrace what they had done, and what they had done was right."

Of course, there are no records to show how many times the 1815 crew members were off before they got it right.

One of the problems was there is so little evidence of the 1815 survey. The early crews blazed trees, which were later logged or burned.

Davis used a copy of the one border map known to exist. When Zupan went to both states' archives to search for the original maps, they had disappeared. He suspects South Carolina's was lost during the Civil War. But an archive worker found a copy a few weeks later. It wasn't catalogued; he simply remembered seeing it in a drawer.

Traipsing across mountain ridges that see few human feet, surveyors did stumble on a few of the original rocks that marked the border. Marked "S.C. A.D. 1815," the rocks were left in place, Thompson said.

"It was a nice find," he said.

A movable line

Most Americans think border disputes are for faraway places like Kashmir and the borders between the states are settled and old news. But border disputes are not new to the United States. The Carolinas are re-marking their border in a peaceful fashion. It wasn't always that way.

John Winberry, a professor of geography at the University of South Carolina said a 1927 survey of the North Carolina border was undertaken after North Carolina clam diggers were accosted by South Carolina officials for digging in the wrong state.

"There have been some serious incidents over time between this state and North Carolina and Georgia," he said. "It usually has to do with individuals making a living."

South Carolina and Georgia were involved in a dispute during the 1970s when a South Carolina shrimp fisherman beat up a Georgia official who tried to stop him from shrimping out of season. It turned out there were two different maps. One showed Georgia claiming the ocean all the way up near Hilton Head while another showed the state line heading directly out into the ocean from the Savannah River, Winberry said.

That dispute took 25 years and \$10 million to settle.

So far, the new Carolina border has cost taxpayers about \$175,000, Zupan said.

Not unique

When it was evident in 1995 that the Tar Heels and Sandlappers would have to redefine their state line, an agreement was signed that both states would do it amicably.

That hasn't been done with other ongoing state disputes, where neighbors have become enemies:

In March, the New Mexico Senate ordered the state's attorney general to sue Texas over an 1859 "surveying mistake." New Mexico claims 600,000 acres of Texas, which includes several towns.

Connecticut and Rhode Island have named a commission to clarify where their 1840 border really is. The 65-mile border is marked by nine stones, and in between, the border has wandered depending on which state residents wanted to be in.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently refused to hear a dispute between New Hampshire and Maine over the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth harbor. Last month, New Hampshire voted to create a new commission to settle the matter.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a dispute over the rights to the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia. The two states have fought over the river for centuries, and Maryland says it controls the river through a 1632 decree from the king of England.

The first three South Carolina counties took nearly three years to survey. Starting next fall, the other eight counties, from Spartanburg to Horry, will be surveyed. That work is expected to go more quickly, since it is mostly a straight line and sections have been resurveyed during the 20th century. That work is expected to be complete within seven years.

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Columbia has always been a government town

Columbia has always been a government town.

Just more than 217 years ago, the General Assembly settled on our three rivers region for a state capital. The area around what was called "Friday's Ferry" beat lobbying efforts from Camden and others for the honor.

Soon, state coffers were opened to build a community.

That purse, even as lawmakers pencil in budget cuts, is still open for lots of business. The state spends more than \$1 billion a year with companies on goods and services alone.

How local businesses can get a slice of that pie is the subject of this month's cover story.

Staff writer Clare Ramsey shares insights from a handful of companies. A full-page graphic takes you step by step through the process.

Please take a look.

While you're searching for new business opportunities, making your workplace safer can add to your bottom line, too. Our monthly "Your Biz" feature tells you how an Occupational Safety and Health Administration-friendly shop floor can lead to lower insurance costs and other benefits.

Also this month, you'll get to meet two people in depth.

Mae Buzhardt is a Lexington County fixture. Her two women's clothing stores are a small part of this pioneering entrepreneur's life.

Former West Columbia resident Bruce Littlefield has hit the big time with a new best-selling business book. The Brookland-Cayce High and USC graduate is highlighted in our Newsmaker Q & A feature.

Finally, our popular pullout tip sheet this month adds corporate bankruptcy filings. And our monthly "Big List" updates the inventory of the top area office parks.

We hope you find this month's Columbia Business Journal useful. If there are other features you'd like to see included, please let us know.